



Task Force Meeting No. 24 Synopsis
July 27, 2009

Task Force Members Present*:

Co-Chair Sam Liccardo, Co-Chair Shirley Lewis, Vice-Chair David Pandori, Shiloh Ballard, Michele Beasley, Frank Chavez, Pat Dando, Harvey Darnell, Dave Fadness, Enrique Fernandez, Sam Ho, Nancy Ianni, Frank Jesse, Matt Kamkar, Charles Lauer, Karl Lee, Linda LeZotte, Pierluigi Oliverio, Dick Santos, Patricia Sausedo, Erik Schoennauer, Judy Stabile, Alofa Talivaa, Michael Van Every, Jim Zito. David Pandori, Shirley Lewis, Jenniffer Rodriguez, Neil Struthers, Brian Darrow

Task Force Members Absent:

Mary Creasman, Gary Chronert, Yolanda Cruz, Pastor Oscar Dace, Lisa Jensen

City Staff and Other Public Agency Staff Present*

Roma Dawson (Council Office, D3), Manuel Pineda (DOT), Ru Weerakoon (CMO), Ron Eddow (Housing), Junko Vroman (ESD), Joseph Horwedel (PBCE), Laurel Prevetti (PBCE), Andrew Crabtree (PBCE), Michael Brilliot (PBCE), Lee Butler (PBCE), John Baty (PBCE), Albert Balagso (PRNS), Matt Cano (PRNS), Dave Mitchell (PRNS), Rafael Gomez (PRNS)

Public Present*:

Tom Rossi (WGHA), Trixie Johnson (LWV), Bill Sowa (HMH), Larry Ames, Jean Dresden, Virginia Holtz, Leah Toeniskoetter, Brenda McHenny (LWV), Pat Pizzo, Will Belkanp, Taisia McMahon (Save Our Trails), Jack Nadean (Save Our Trails), Joe De Simone (Senior Softball), Ellen Krystal, Judy Ingols, Rick Harnadez, Katy Sutherland (D 10), Nicole Kohlenter (Healthtrust), Marley Spilman (Friends of Coyote Creak), Richard Heler, Fran Stewart, Shirly Nakamiyo, Joe Head (Summerhill Homes), Michael Larocca, David Biagian (Neighborhoods Commission), Nancy Hickey (Coalition For Downtown Hospital/ Neighborhoods Coalition), Meagan Fluke, Rosylin Dean Coalition For Downtown Hospital), Bruce Tichinin (Save Our Trails), Teri Balandra (FLAG), Deborah Arant (SHPHA), Lorie Bird (HPHP), Erich Winkler (HPHP), Richard Zappelli (WGNA), Martin Delson, David Marsland (Sierra Club)

*As verified by registering attendance on Sign-In Sheets.

1. Welcome

The meeting convened at 6:33 p.m.

2. Review and approval of June 22, 2009 synopsis

A Task Force member questioned whether a vote would occur on the Dept. of Transportation's update on the Transportation Network Revisions (Item 5.a on this agenda). The response was that a vote count could be taken if that is the will of the Task Force. The June 22, 2009 synopsis was then approved.

3. Initiation of Envision Phase 2 – Discussion on Where We are Going (Work Plan)

Andrew Crabtree (PBCE) presented some highlights from the Work Plan for the Task Force. Task Force members noted that we should include additional discussions on economic development, planning for healthy cities, and water supply. Task Force members requested a Level of Service discussion in December, as part of the transportation discussions. Optional study sessions and/or break-out groups/subcommittees were noted as an option for addressing some of the goal and policy discussions. Staff stated that additional meetings may be necessary in order to meet the overall project schedule.

4. Proposed Goals, Policies, and Implementation Strategies for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Michael Brilliot (PBCE) provided a framework for the ensuing discussion by differentiating goals, policies, implementation strategies, and performance measures and by introducing major themes of the *Draft Greenprint* that align with the Task Force's Draft Vision.

Albert Balagso (PRNS) and Matt Cano (PRNS) presented key information from the *Draft Greenprint*, answered some of the questions that had been previously raised by the Task Force and public, and introduced some of the parks, recreation, and open space policies and implementation strategies proposed for the General Plan Update.

Twenty three members of the public provided comments on proposed parks, recreation and open space issues. Multiple speakers expressed concern about how the *Draft Greenprint* now addresses the "Three Creeks Trail," with many of those comments focusing on how this Trail would provide trail connections between Kelly Park, the planned Coyote Creek Trail extension, the Guadalupe Creek Trail and the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Multiple other speakers commented on the proposed 3.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. All of those commenting stated that the aforementioned ratio should be the minimum amount of parkland provided (some advocated for more), and several speakers stated that schools and other facilities should not be counted towards the 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Other speakers advocated for community gardens as a place to grow local, healthy foods; creative funding alternatives for parks, trails, and open space; preserving Coyote Valley as open space; health benefits from parks and recreation; and general connectivity of the parks and trails system.

Task Force members spoke at length regarding the proposed parks, recreation, and open space goals. Broadly, Task Force comments are summarized as follows:

- *Excellence.* Great cities should have great parks. The City should provide at least 3.5 acres / 1000 of useful park space, including both large and small 'pocket' parks. Parks should be carefully designed and located to address local community demographics/needs/interests. Pocket parks are more appropriate in urban areas.
- *Vision/Image.* The City should have a significant, central park that can act as a focal point for the City. The central park should connect to or be a part of the Guadalupe River park system

and incorporate significant city facilities, event places, etc. The City needs a stronger vision for its parks system.

- *Healthy City.* The park system plays an important role in helping to transform San Jose into a healthier city through access to nearby park facilities, trails, and community gardens. San Jose should promote urban agriculture in part by providing community gardens.
- *Creative Financing and Partnerships.* The City should pursue creative funding sources for park development and maintenance such as a parks endowment, privately funded parks (like Millennium Park), privately maintained parks and volunteer maintained parks.
- *Inter-connected City.* The City should have a more ambitious vision for the trail network and be more committed to providing trail connections.

The Task Force voted on a motion to adopt the *Draft Greenprint* section that identifies the Guadalupe River Park as San Jose's "Great Central Park" and requests that Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services staff come back to the Task Force with a more in-depth description of the park. The motion passed by a vote of 23 to 7.

5. Updates

a. Transportation Network Revisions

Michael Brilliot (PBCE) and Manuel Pineda (DOT) gave a brief synopsis of staff's response to the Task Force's and the public's June 22, 2009 comments on the proposed changes to the transportation network. Several Task Force members requested clarification on various streets. Several members of the public spoke with questions on staff's response to their June comments. The Task Force voted and accepted staff's response to their and the public's June 22, 2009 comments.

b. Vision North San Jose Process

This agenda item was postponed due to the time constraints.

6. Public Comment

As noted above, public comments were taken as part of Items 4 & 5.a on this agenda, and no additional public comments at this time on the agenda.

7. Announcements

Wikiplanning will be launching for the public on August 1st, and staff would like the Task Force's help in promoting public participation on the site.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.